

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 16, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 50

Introduced by Assembly Member Medina

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

April 27, 2016

House Resolution No. 50—Relative to Lupus Awareness Month.

- 1 WHEREAS, Lupus is a disease that affects more people than
- 2 AIDS, cerebral palsy, sickle cell anemia, and multiple sclerosis
- 3 combined. One of out every 185 Americans has lupus. Lupus is
- 4 hard to diagnose, mimics other diseases, and its sufferers usually
- 5 do not get treatment until they have suffered with the symptoms
- 6 for many years; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Lupus affects approximately 1.4 million Americans,
- 8 90 percent of people diagnosed with the disease are women, 80
- 9 percent develop the disease between 15 and 45 years of age, and

1 the disease is two to three times more prevalent among people of
2 color, including African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and Native
3 Americans; and

4 WHEREAS, Understanding lupus will help us better understand
5 infections in general, allergies, cancer, and even AIDS. Medical
6 students are often told if they know lupus then they know medicine;
7 lupus is the paradigm of autoimmunity, as lupus can affect every
8 part of the body; and

9 WHEREAS, At least nine states have declared the month of
10 May as Lupus Awareness Month — California, Colorado,
11 Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, New York, Oregon,
12 Virginia, and Wisconsin; and

13 WHEREAS, Lupus is an autoimmune disease that can affect
14 any part of the body, including internal organs, the skin, and joints.
15 The disease also has many different symptoms and, because of
16 that, affects each person differently. Because of its unpredictable
17 nature, people with lupus often have many questions about the
18 disease; and

19 WHEREAS, Each person with lupus has different symptoms
20 that can range from mild to severe and may come and go over
21 time. Lupus is not to be taken lightly; it can affect many parts of
22 the body, including, but not limited to, the kidneys, lungs, central
23 nervous system, blood vessels, blood, heart, and skin; and

24 WHEREAS, The State Department of Public Health concluded
25 in its 2008 Lupus Data/Statistics report that death rates from lupus
26 increased nearly 70 percent among black women between 45 and
27 64 years of age. Possible reasons include an increasing incidence
28 of systemic lupus erythematosus, later diagnosis, less access to
29 health care, less-effective treatments, and poorer compliance with
30 treatment recommendations. Each year during the study period,
31 death rates were more than five times higher for women than for
32 men; and

33 WHEREAS, Existing public information and programs about
34 lupus in California remain inadequately disseminated and
35 insufficient in addressing the needs of specific diverse populations
36 and other underserved groups; and

37 WHEREAS, Educating the public and the health care community
38 throughout the state about this devastating disease is of paramount
39 importance and is in every respect in the public interest and to the
40 benefit of all residents of the State of California; and

1 WHEREAS, Many other organizations strive to educate the
2 community about lupus and how to manage the disease and also
3 to bring more awareness through advocacy and education while
4 providing support and resources to families that are affected by
5 the disease; and

6 WHEREAS, Advocates around the country have joined together
7 to advocate for lupus awareness, support, and a better future
8 through research, diagnosis, education, and treatment; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
11 Assembly observes the month of May 2016 as Lupus Awareness
12 Month; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
14 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.